



# Donovan Wildcat

The Donovan Fields property, through which this trail winds, was part of a large land grant in colonial days, known as White Oak Plains. When acquired by the town in 1997, the two houses and the old orchard field were sold and a cluster-zoned housing development was built, the first in the town. Terms for that development included the construction of part of these trails. As the Donovan trails winds south, it moves onto Wildcat Hill, an area originally settled by freed slaves. The Donovan Farm Field is currently licensed to local farmers for agricultural use. The Donovan Field contains several older structures, the largest a cold storage shed which has been used at various times for storage of hay, pumpkins, apples and farm equipment. There is an old smoke shed behind the north west corner of the storage shed as well as an old stone fire pit across the stream near the old skating pond which can be found along Margret's Brook.

The smaller field is now known as the Hemingway Wildflower Field, which was a project to convert the old farm field into a pollinator wildflower meadow. The field is dedicated to Nancy Hemingway, who was the Conservation Agent from 2012-2020 and started the wildflower project, before she sadly passed away from breast cancer. A memorial breast cancer garden can be found in this field. The Bike Path which runs from the High School to the Town Center winds around the outside edge of the Donovan and Hemingway Fields.

### Trail Distances

- D1 Margret's Brook Trail** - 0.20 miles
- D2 Donovan Trail** - 0.21 miles (Parking)
- D3** - 200 feet
- D4 Donovan Trail**- 0.40 miles
- D5** - 0.10 miles
- D6 Wildcat Trail** - 0.34 miles
- W1 Wildcat Trail** - 0.15 miles
- W2 Wildcat Trail** - 0.18 miles (Parking)
- W3** - 0.28 miles
- W4 Hilltop Trail** - 0.30 miles
- W5** - 370 feet
- W6** - 0.10 miles
- W7 Peden Trail** - 0.36 miles